

After 20 year wait, work begins on new bridge
By Cathy Allred-First Journalism Piece
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The old battered Jordan River bridge on 9600 North is finally being replaced. Local residents have waited close to 20 years for a new bridge and now that they have their wish, they are in disbelief.

A property owner on the Lehi west bank of the Jordan, Darrell Allred was told the new bridge was going in this winter. "Heck, you're still new around here," was his response.

No longer country business, a bid by Rollins, Brown, and Gunnell Inc., a Provo based engineering company, was accepted the first part of August and the private firm is intent on getting the job done.

Unfortunately, while they are working on the construction, the only possible detour will add on six extra miles for travelers. Allred figures that as soon as he moved to the city and had to come out twice a day to farm that there would be a "darn" detour all winter.

The actual planning of the \$700,000 bridge has only taken three years according to Clyde Naylor the County Engineer. The cost of building the new bridge will be largely paid by federal funds because of the historical value in the old Jordan Narrows Bridge.

"Now that the hoopla and all the red tape is over, we can build a bridge." responded Russ Brown, co-owner of the company.

They have built a dirt pad cutting the river in half and raising the river approximately one half inch. The pad supports the pile-driver, which will pound

110 feet long pilings into the earth as a solid base in the sandy river bottom can be established.

The finished structure will look a lot like a freeway overpass with two lanes. Its deck will be six feet higher than the old bridge. The workers will also be straightening the road causing the bridge to run at about a 45 degree angle from the old bridge to the east. At its closest point on the west side the two bridges will be 6-7 feet apart. The finished route should cut down on winter accidents considerably.

A paved pathway will go down from the new bridge onto the old one. An area for horse trailers and cars will run in front of the old bridge.

The replacement bridge will take approximately 110 days to build and is scheduled to be finished in May.